

## SHOP FOR YOUR CREDIT CARD

Smart consumers comparison shop when looking for credit such as a mortgage or an auto loan. It is also a good practice to engage in when choosing a credit card. The choices you make can save you money.

Shop among some of the credit card issuers listed in this brochure. Compare them with cards you already have and with offers you receive in the mail for the terms that best suit your spending and repayment habits.

**Key credit terms to consider in the credit card agreement are:**

**Annual Fee** - a flat, yearly charge similar to a membership fee. Many credit card issuers charge an annual fee for granting you credit, typically \$15 to \$55. Some issuers charge no annual fee.

**Annual Percentage Rate (APR)** - the cost of credit expressed as a yearly rate.

**Finance Charge** - The dollar amount you pay to use credit. Besides interest costs, it may include other charges associated with transactions such as cash advance fees.

**Transaction Fees and Other Charges** - Some issuers charge a fee if you use the card to get a cash advance, if you fail to make a payment on time, or if you exceed your credit limit. Some may charge a flat fee every month whether you use the card or not.

**Grace Period** - A time, usually 25 days, during which you can pay your credit card bill without paying a finance charge.

**Average Daily Balance** - A balance calculation method most creditors use in calculating their finance charge. The average daily balance is calculated by adding each days balance and dividing the total by the number of days in the billing cycle.

**Adjusted Balance Method** - This balance used to calculate the finance charge is derived by subtracting the payments you've made from the previous balance. This method is most favorable to the customer.

## CREDIT CARD FEATURES TO CONSIDER

Smart consumers find the best deal for their budgets and repayment styles. If you always pay your monthly bill/s in full, the best type of card is one that has no annual fee and offers a grace period for paying your bill without paying a finance charge.

If you don't always pay off the credit card balance/s at the end of the month, be sure to look at the annual percentage rate.

**Example:**

Terms	Card A	Card B
Average monthly balance	\$2,500	\$2,500
APR	x .18	x .14
Annual finance charges	\$ 450	\$ 350
Annual fee	+ \$20	-0-
Total Cost	\$ 470	\$ 350

Other features to consider are enhancements to the credit card that the issuer offers. Enhancements can include cash rebates, purchase protections, warranty guarantees, and usage incentives such as frequent flyer miles.

## CREDIT CARD PLANS

The following credit card list is subject to change. Readers are encouraged to contact the credit card issuer for current rates and to learn about their other credit plans.

Codes Used in the Credit Card Plan List:

M = Master Card      F = fixed rate  
V = Visa                V = variable rate  
N = national          R = only in selected states  
T = tiered pricing, different rates for balance levels

State abbreviation = only in state specified  
(G) = Gold Card (P) = Platinum Card

Institution, Plan & Availability	APR	Grace Period Days	Annual Fee	Telephone
Abbott Bank,MC,N	17.60V	25	0	800-426-6420
AFBA Ind Bk, V, N	VPrime +3.49	25	0	800-776-2265
Amalgamated Bk, M, N	VPrim + 4.5	25	0	800-723-0303
Baybank, M, N	16.90V	0	\$21	800-221-3393
Capital One (P)	9.9 Cash adv. 19.8	25	0	800-822-3397
Central Carolina, M, N	VPrime + 2.5	25	\$29	800-334-1073
Chevy Chase Bk, V, N	V Prime + 5.15	25	\$20	800-937-5000
Citibank, V, N	V Prime + 9.4	25	0	800-950-5114
Citizens TC, V, N	V Prime +7.15	25	0	800-922-9999
Columbus Bk, V, N	14.9V	25	12	800-348-8900
Crestar Bk, V, N	V Prime + 6.9	25	20	800-368-7700
FCC NB, V, N	V Prime + 9.9	25	0	800-368-4535
Fifth Third Bk, M, R	V Prime + 5.9	25	18	800-472-3030
1st of Am. Bk, M, N	V Prime + 8.4	25	0	800-423-3883
1st USA Bk, V, R	13.99F	25	0	800-955-9900
1st USA Bk, (P)	9.99	25	0	800-294-2993
GE Capital, M, N	19.8F	25	0	513-677-6736
Household Bk, V, N	15.65V	25	15	800-477-6000
Huntington Bk, V, IN (P)	V Prime	25	75	800-480-2265
Huntington Bk, V, IN (G)	V Prime + 1	25	49	800-480-2265
Huntington Bk, V, IN (G)	V Prime + 4.49	25	0	800-480-2265
Mellon Bk, M, N	V Prime + 8.25	20	35	800-753-7011
NBD, Skokie V, R	V Prime + 8.25	15	0	800-766-4623
Oak Brook Bk, M, N	V Prime + 4.9	25	17	800-666-1011
Peoples Bk, V, N	13.90F	25	25	800-426-1114
Providian Ban Cor, V, R	13.9V	25	0	800-964-6000
Pulaski Bank & Trust	9.45	25	50	800-980-2265
Pullman Bank & Trust (G)	VPrime +3	25	0	800-785-5626
Security NB, V, R	12.87V	25	18	800-356-8085
Simmons First Nat'l (G)	9.5	25	50	800-636-5151
Union Fed, V, IN	11.5F	25	0	800-284-8835
Union Planters, M,N	V Prime +3.75	25	29	918-664-1400
USAA Savings (G, P)	VPrime + 1	25	45	800-022-9092

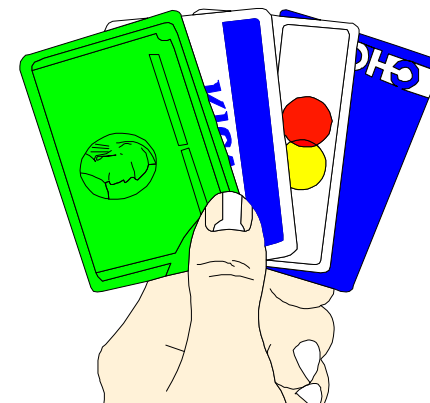
The Indiana Department of Financial Institutions, Division of Consumer Credit has many other credit related brochures available, such as:

- Answers to Credit Problems
- Applying for Credit
- At Home Shopping Rights
- Bankruptcy Facts
- Buried in Debt
- Car Financing Scams
- Charge Card Fraud
- Choosing A Credit Card
- Co-Signing
- Credit and Divorce
- Credit and Older Consumers
- Deep in Debt?
- Equal Credit Opportunity
- Fair Credit Reporting
- Fair Debt Collection
- Gold Cards
- Hang up on Fraud
- High Rate Mortgages
- Home Equity Credit Lines
- How to Avoid Bankruptcy
- Indiana Uniform Consumer Credit Code
- Look Before you Lease
- Mortgage Loans
- Repossession
- Reverse Mortgage Loans
- Rule of 78s – What is it?
- Scoring for Credit
- Shopping for Credit
- Using Credit Cards
- Variable Rate Credit
- What is a Budget?
- What is the DFI?

Call our toll-free number or write to the address on the cover for a copy of any of the brochures listed or for further consumer credit information. You can also access information at our web site on the Internet: <http://www.dfi.state.in.us>, then click on Consumer Credit.



# CHOOSING A CREDIT CARD



## DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Consumer Credit Division  
402 West Washington Street, Room W066  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
317-232-3955  
1-800-382-4880  
Web Site <http://www.dfi.state.in.us>

